

USA Wrestling Protest Procedures: PROTEST PROCEDURES

A written protest may be submitted when a flagrant violation of the rules of wrestling or an irregular situation is noted. The protest must be filed in writing on an official protest form available from the chief pairing master. On any protest involving application or interpretation of the rules, the mat chairman must be notified immediately after the end of the bout that a protest is imminent. The written protest must be filed no later than 30 minutes after the end of the bout. The protest must be submitted to the chief pairing master, who shall forward it to the committee. Each protest must be accompanied by a fee of **\$100**, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

In the cases of video review, the FILA protest procedures shall apply, which may be modified by USAW. Only USA Wrestling official authorized video footage may be used in any video review.

These rules are subject to change as determined by the appropriate USAW Committee(s) and Board of Directors.

A protest may be accepted and examined when:

- There has been a flagrant violation of the rules.
- There has been a timing error, during which the score of the bout changed.
- Two wrestlers have arrived at a prior agreement regarding the outcome of their bout, to influence the classification of an opponent.
- The judge and referee have awarded points in a unanimous manner and the mat chairman has changed their decision.
- Points are entered in inverse order on the judge's and mat chairman's score sheets, by error, or
- Points have been awarded by majority vote of the officiating team and, by error, these points have not been entered on the score sheets.

A protest may not be accepted nor examined when:

- It concerns the officials' judgment.
- It concerns disqualification of one or both wrestlers for cautions, brutality or violation of the rule.
- It concerns a period in which a fall has been called and confirmed, unless the period/match should have been ended prior to the fall occurring (ie.: technical superiority previously occurred).
- The outcome of the protest will not change the winner of the period or match.

If the protest is accepted, it shall be examined by the protest committee which makes the final decision. After a decision is reached, the party filing the protest shall be provided a written explanation of the ruling. If the protest is upheld, the other party also shall receive a copy. *The general rule is that the evaluation of*

any protest by the tournament committee (see page 62) should provide a clear winner. Due to the new FILA rule, regarding the way the bout is conducted in terms of periods, the rules for protesting a period of a bout are as follows: a bout may only be protested at the conclusion of the entire bout -- not at the end of any given period. If, due to a flagrant violation of the rules or an irregular situation during any one period, a protest may be filed regarding that period in question if the decision of the protest may affect the determination of the winner of the bout. If the protest committee is unable to declare a clear winner of the period in protest, after a mandatory 15 minute rest period, the wrestlers will be reassigned to a mat and the particular period in protest will be re-wrestled. The results of this re-wrestled period are final and shall be accepted as the official result. The outcome of this re-wrestled period shall be considered in determining the status of the bout. The score sheet signed by the mat chairman and by the winning wrestler shall be accepted as the official result, even if it differs from the visual scoreboard, unless — in consideration of a protest — the committee determines that a rule was improperly applied.

If the scoring totals shown on the mat chairman's score sheet differ from the actual totals of the individual points recorded, through an error in addition, the recording of individual scoring moves shall be considered official and the totals shall be corrected by the chief pairing master upon discovery of the error.

Questions concerning errors in recording of results, assignment of classification points and/or improper pairing of the contestants may be addressed to the chief pairing master without the filing of a written protest. Anyone bringing a question to the pairing officials should know the contestant's draw number of the wrestler involved. When a wrestler is disqualified from a bout or from the event for brutality or flagrant misconduct, such action shall be subject to automatic review by the committee without the filing of a formal protest and the use of official USA Wrestling video maybe authorized.

Under no circumstances shall the use of video tapes or films of a bout be considered or shown in the evaluation of any protest except as noted above or when USAW has provided for the video review of bouts as determined by the Sports Committees and approved by the USAW Executive Committee. In the use of video review at any USAW sanctioned event, only the mat chairman or the Head Official for the event may order the video review. Even in the case where the referee and judge are in agreement of the results of an action or situation, video review **can** be ordered.